



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services

Foreign  
Agricultural  
Service

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TO: Foreign Agricultural Service Employees

FROM: Michael W. Yost  
Administrator  
Foreign Agricultural Service

December 12, 2007

SUBJECT: Civil Rights and Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statement

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is dedicated to creating economic opportunities for American agriculture by expanding global markets. To fulfill its mission of linking U.S. agriculture to the world, FAS is committed to the important principles of a discrimination free work environment, fairness, equal opportunity, impartiality, and respect. FAS will ensure that all employees, applicants for employment, customers and prospective customers are treated in a non-discriminatory manner without regard to race, color, religious beliefs, gender, national origin, age, marital or family status, disability, sexual orientation, political beliefs, or veteran status.

At FAS, there is zero tolerance for discrimination, harassment or retaliation against any employee, employment applicant, or customer. We will ensure that any barriers to equal employment opportunity are removed. All employees, managers and supervisors play a significant role in maintaining an environment of equal opportunity, and must treat all colleagues and customers with respect and professionalism. We all share the responsibility to ensure equal employment opportunity.

FAS maintains an environment that asserts the diversity of our employees and customers and will consider their points of view and ideas. We will continue to develop affirmative employment initiatives and actions that ensure that applicants and employees receive fair and equitable treatment, and at the same time, represent the diversity of our country. As Administrator, I support our agency's commitment to civil rights, equal employment opportunity and diversity, and hold every employee accountable for the achievement of this policy. Through awareness, innovation and guidance, FAS will accomplish its mission and will achieve an environment that is fair and free of harassment or discrimination.